

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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SUPPORTING THE CO-NAMING OF A SECTION OF 33RD STREET IN NEW YORK CITY TO FATHER DAMIEN WAY IN HONOR OF SAINT DAMIEN DE VEUSTER.

1 WHEREAS, Saint Damien De Veuster dedicated his entire  
2 priestly life to serving and ministering to patients of Hansen's  
3 disease in Kalaupapa on Moloka'i, earning him the designation of  
4 the patron saint of people with Hansen's disease; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Saint Damien was originally from Belgium, where he  
7 was bestowed the title of "The Greatest Belgian" for his work as  
8 a priest (Order of the Sacred Hearts), leader, community  
9 planner, and visionary who understood human need and the true  
10 meaning of ministry; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, in 1864, Father Damien was sent to Honolulu,  
13 Hawai'i, where he was ordained at Our Lady of Peace Cathedral on  
14 Fort Street, and for the next nine years worked in missions on  
15 Hawai'i Island; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, in 1873, Father Damien volunteered to serve on  
18 Moloka'i, where he cared for Hansen's disease patients of all  
19 ages, but was particularly concerned about the seclusion of the  
20 children in the colony; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, in 1885, Father Damien announced he contracted  
23 Hansen's disease and continued thereafter to build hospitals,  
24 clinics, and churches, and some six hundred coffins for the  
25 people in the colony; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Father Damien died on Moloka'i amongst his fellow  
28 patients who were his flock, as he was their shepherd; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, Saint Damien's legacy is testimony to his vigorous  
31 advocacy for the universal human right to compassionate health  
32 care; and



1 WHEREAS, on May 11, 2015, a street-naming ceremony will be  
2 held in New York City, one day after Saint Damien's Feast Day on  
3 May 10, 2015, to co-name a section of 33rd Street between 1st  
4 and 2nd Avenues to Father Damien Way in honor of Saint Damien de  
5 Veuster; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the reason for the co-naming to Father Damien Way  
8 is that it is in proximity to the Bellevue Hospital which  
9 continues to treat and serve the needs of those with Hansen's  
10 disease, as well as the poor and underserved in New York City;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Minister-President of Flanders, Geert  
14 Bourgeoise, will also be attending the ceremony in New York  
15 City; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the ceremony is expected to be attended by  
18 Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of  
19 Hawai'i, Senator for the 7th Senatorial District of the State of  
20 Hawai'i, Mayor of the County of Maui, Governor of the State of  
21 New York, Mayor of New York City, Roman Catholic Bishop of  
22 Honolulu, and Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the National Statutory Hall in Washington, D.C.,  
25 displays a statue of Saint Damien, sculpted by New York City  
26 sculptor, Marisol Escobar; now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2015, the  
30 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the  
31 co-naming of a section of 33rd Street in New York City to Father  
32 Damien Way in honor of Saint Damien de Veuster; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional  
36 delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Senator for the  
37 7th Senatorial District of the State of Hawai'i, Mayor of the  
38 County of Maui, Governor of the State of New York, Mayor of New



# S.C.R. NO. 165

1 York City, Roman Catholic Bishop of Honolulu, and Roman Catholic  
2 Archbishop of New York.  
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